

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7908

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 3246

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR CS

SUBJECT: COSTA RICAN REACTION TO ROCKEFELLER NOMINATION

THE NOMINATION OF GOVERNOR ROCKEFELLER TO THE US VICE-PRESIDENCY WAS WARMLY RECEIVED IN GOVERNMENTAL AND PRESS CIRCLES IN COSTA RICA. FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS VERABLY EXPRESSED THEIR GREAT SATISFACTION WITH THE NOMINATION TO EMBASSY OFFICERS, AND SEVERAL PRESS ARTICLES LAUDED THE NOMINATION AND CHARACTERIZED IT AS PROBABLY SIGNIFYING A NEW SENSITIVITY TOWARD PROBLEMS IN THE HEMISPHERE. WJ AUGUST 22 EDITORIAL ENTITLED "ROCKEFELLER" IN "LA REPUBLICA" BEST SUMMED UP THE GENERAL REACTION. IT ANALYZED USG POLICY TOWARD LATIN AMERICA DURING NIXON'S ADMINISTRATION AS ONE OF

"ALMOST CALCULATED INDIFFERENCE" TOWARD THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, A POLICY WHICH IT ASSIGNED TO EX-PRESIDENT NIXON'S DISINTEREST IN THE HEMISPHERE. THE EDITORIAL SAID THAT THE FORD GOVERNMENT SEEMS TO REPRESENT "OLD IDEALS" WITH REGARD TO RELATIONS BETWEEN THE LATIN COUNTRIES AND THE U.S. AND THE ROCKEFELLER NOMINATION IN PARTICULAR IS THE BEST EVIDENCE THAT FIRSTHAND RECOGNITION OF LATIN AMERICAN THEMES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO THE NEW U.S. GOVERNMENT. THE EDITORIAL WENT ON TO NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT THE CAUSE
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OF LATIN AMERICAN PROBLEMS HAS NOT BEEN THE LACK OF A

DEFINED POLICY TOWARDS THIS HEMISPHERE BY THE U.S.
AND ILLUSTRATED BY POINTING OUT THAT THE SO-CALLED
BANANA WAR HAS DEMONSTRATED THE INABILITY OF THE
LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES TO COMBINE IN THEIR OWN BEHALF.
THE EDITORIAL TERMINATED BY SAYING THAT WHILE

"ROCKEFELLER MAY BE OUR FRIEND, HE CANNOT BE OUR DOCTOR,"
AND ADDED THAT IF THAT IS NECESSARY IT WILL BE A
IMPLICIT "ROCOGNITION OF OUR POLITICAL INCAPACIBILITY."
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